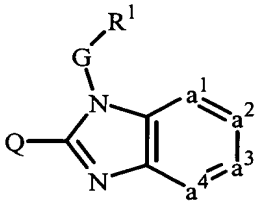
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. ***(currently amended)*** A compound of formula



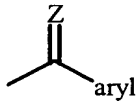
(I)

an ~~**ester or amide prodrug,**~~ *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof

wherein $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ represents a bivalent radical of formula

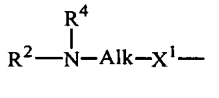
-CH=CH-CH=CH- (a-1);

wherein each hydrogen atom in the radical (a-1) may optionally be replaced by halo, C_{1-6}alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, carboxyl, aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, mono- or di(C_{1-4}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or a radical of formula

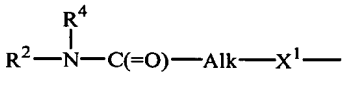


wherein =Z is =O, =CH-C(=O)-$NR^{5a}R^{5b}$, $=CH_2$, =CH-C_{1-6}alkyl, =N-OH or =N-O-C_{1-6}alkyl;

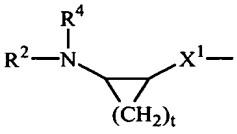
Q is a radical of formula



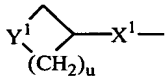
(b-1)



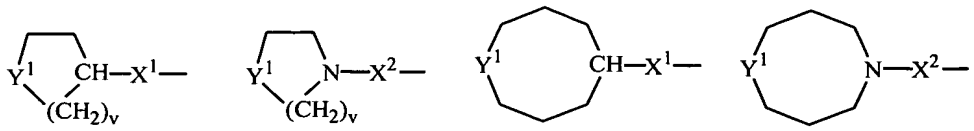
(b-2)



(b-3)



(b-4)



(b-5) (b-6) (b-7) (b-8)

wherein

Alk is C_{1-6}alkanediyl;

Y^1 is a bivalent radical of formula $-NR^2-$ or $-CH(NR^2R^4)-$;

X^1 is NR^4, S, S(=O), $S(=O)_2$, O, CH_2, C(=O), $C(=CH_2)$, CH(OH), $CH(CH_3)$, $CH(OCH_3)$, $CH(SCH_3)$, $CH(NR^{5a}R^{5b})$, CH_2-NR^4 or NR^4-CH_2;

X^2 is a direct bond, CH_2, C(=O), NR^4, C_{1-4}alkylene-NR^4, or NR^4-C_{1-4}alkylene;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

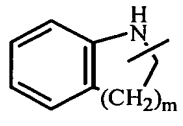
u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

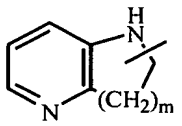
v is 2 or 3; and

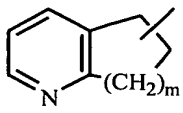
whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced by R^3; with the proviso that when R^3 is hydroxy or C_{1-6}alkyloxy, then R^3 can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

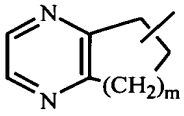
G is a direct bond or C_{1-10}alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, arylC_{1-6}alkylthio, arylcarbonyl, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, C_{1-6}alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, amino, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonylamino and aryl;

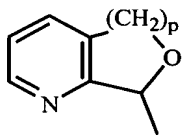
R^1 is a bicyclic heterocycle selected from quinolinyl, ~~isoquinolinyl,~~ quinoxalinyl, benzofuranyl, benzothienyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzthiazolyl, pyridopyridyl, naphthyridinyl, 1*H*-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridinyl, 3*H*-imidazo[4,5-b]pyridinyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl, 2,3-dihydro-1,4-dioxino[2,3-b]pyridyl or a radical of formula

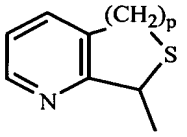

(c-1)

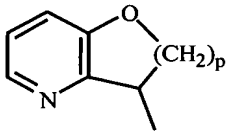

(c-2)

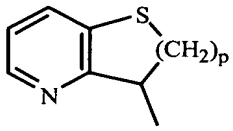

(c-3)


(c-4)


(c-5)


(c-6)


(c-7)


(c-8)

and said bicyclic heterocycles may optionally be substituted in either of the two cycles with 1 or where possible more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, C_{1-6}alkylthio, C_{1-6}alkyloxyC_{1-6}alkyl, aryl, arylC_{1-6}alkyl, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)aminoC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonylamino, C_{1-6}alkyl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-, aryl-SO_2-NR^{5c}-, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-$NR^{5c}R^{5d}$, HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, halo(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, C_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$- and mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-;

each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

each m independently is 1 or 2;

each p independently is 1 or 2;

each R^2 independently is hydrogen, formyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, homopiperidinyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$, or C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with $N(R^6)_2$ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, C_{2-5}alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono-or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino, C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R^3 is hydrogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, arylC_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl or arylC_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} each independently are hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; or

R^{5a} and R^{5b}, or R^{5c} and R^{5d} taken together form a bivalent radical of formula $-(CH_2)_s-$ wherein s is 4 or 5;

R^6 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, formyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylcarbonyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxycarbonyl;

aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, and C_{1-6}alkyloxy; and

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, or pyridazinyl.

2. ***(cancelled)***

3. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein Q is a radical of formula (b-5) wherein v is 2 and Y^1 is $-NR^2-$.

4. ***(previously presented)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^2 is C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with NHR^6.

5. ***(currently amended)*** A compound according to claim 1, wherein G is a direct bond or C_{1-10}alkanediyl optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents selected from **the group consisting of** hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyloxy, arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy, $HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, C_{1-6}alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$, **and** arylC_{1-6}alkyloxy$(-CH_2-CH_2-O)_n-$.

6. ***(currently amended)*** A compound ~~according to claim 1~~, wherein the compound is

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[1-(8-quinolinyl)ethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-bromo-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-8-quinolinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(1-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(ethoxy-8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

N-[1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-yl]-1,3-propanediamine trihydrochloride monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-[1-(aminomethyl)-2-methylpropyl]-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(1-isoquinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-(8-quinolinylmethyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2,3-dimethyl-5-quinoxalinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(3-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride dihydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)-8-quinolinylmethyl]-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-4-methyl-1-[(1-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-4-yl)methyl]-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

(±)-*N*-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-(2-chloro-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5-quinoxalinyl)-4-methyl-*1H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;

((1-isoquinolin-1-ylmethyl)-1H-benzoimidazol-2-yl)-piperidin-4-yl-amine;

(1-(4-(1-isoquinolin-1-ylmethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-2-ylamino)-piperidin-1-ylmethyl)-2-methyl-propyl)-carbamic acid tert-butyl ester; or

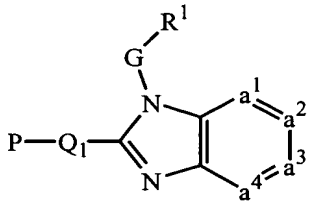
an ~~**ester or amide prodrug,**~~ *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

7. ***(previously presented)*** A method of treating a respiratory syncytial viral infection, comprising the step of administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.

8. ***(previously presented)*** A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 and 3 to 6.

9. ***(previously presented)*** A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 8, comprising the step of intimately mixing said carrier with said compound.

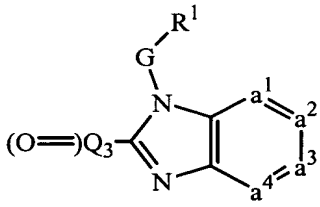
10. ***(original)*** An intermediate of formula



(IV)

with R^1, G and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, P being a protective group, and Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 but being devoided of the R^2 or R^6 substituent.

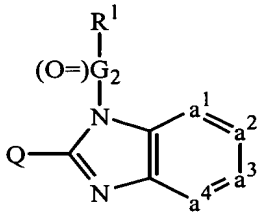
11. ***(original)*** An intermediate of formula



(IX)

with R^1, G and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(O=)Q_3$ being a carbonyl derivative of Q, said Q being defined according to claim 1, provided that it is devoided of the NR^2R^4 or NR^2 substituent.

12. ***(original)*** An intermediate of formula

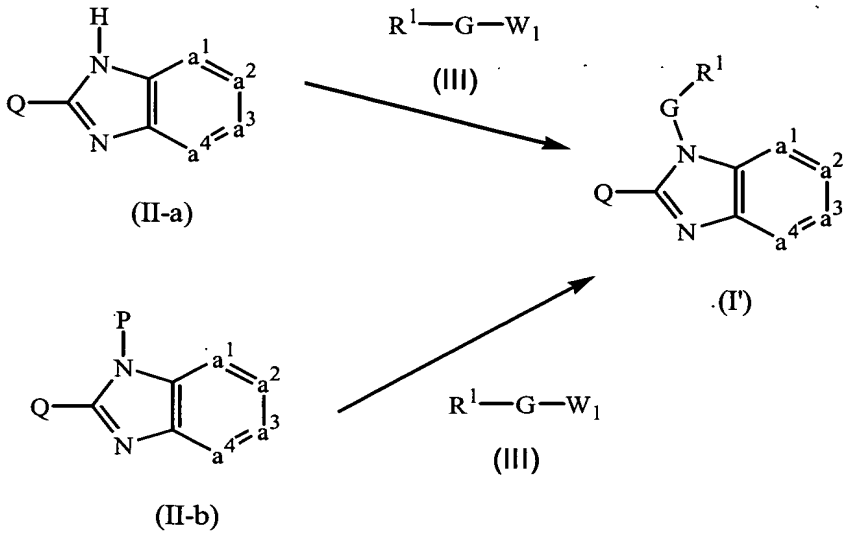


(XXII)

with R^1, Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(O=)G_2$ being a carbonyl derivative of G, said G being defined according to claim 1.

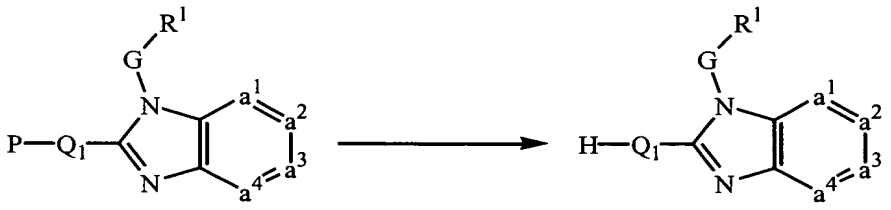
13. ***(currently amended)*** A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, comprising at least one step selected from the group consisting of:

a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)



with R^1, G, Q and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and W_1 being a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable base and in a suitable reaction-inert solvent;

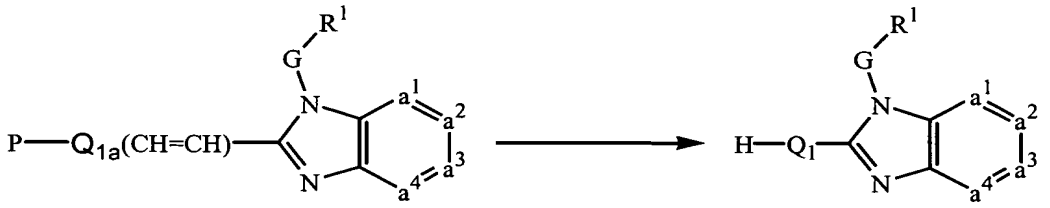
b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)



(IV) (I-a)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

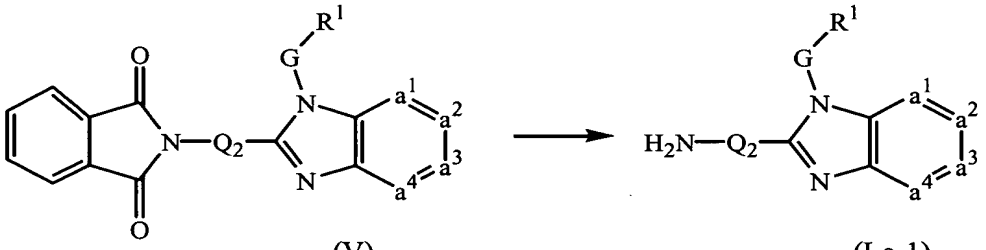
c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)



(IV-a) (I-a)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, $Q_{1a}(CH=CH)$ being defined as Q_1 provided that Q_1 comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

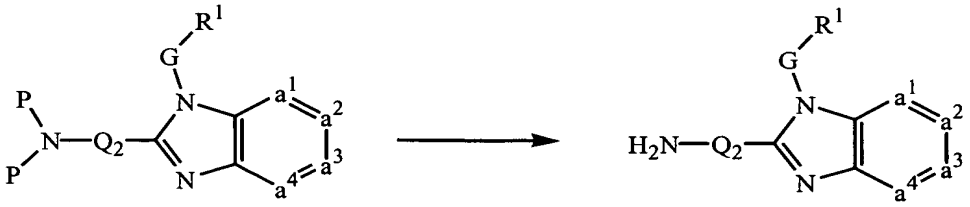
d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



(V) (I-a-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H_2N-Q_2 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen;

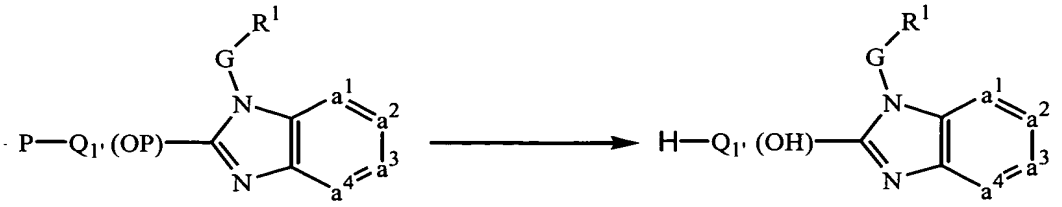
e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



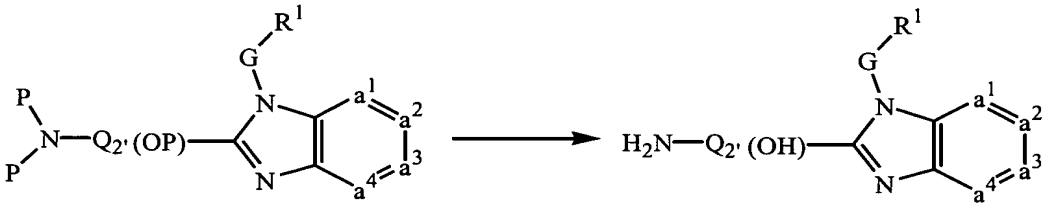
(VI) (I-a-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H_2N-Q_2 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)



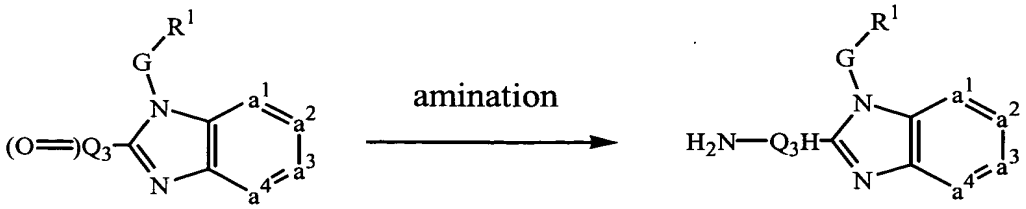
(VII) (I-a-2)



(VIII) (I-a-1-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q_1'(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, H_2N-Q_2'(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, and P being a protective group;

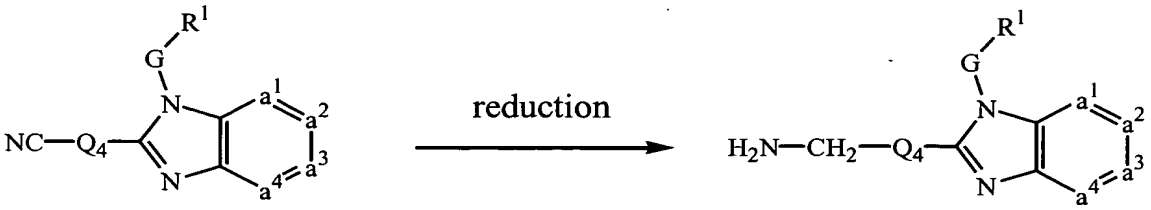
g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)



(IX) (I-a-1-2)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H_2N-Q_3H being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the R^6, or R^2 and R^4 substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

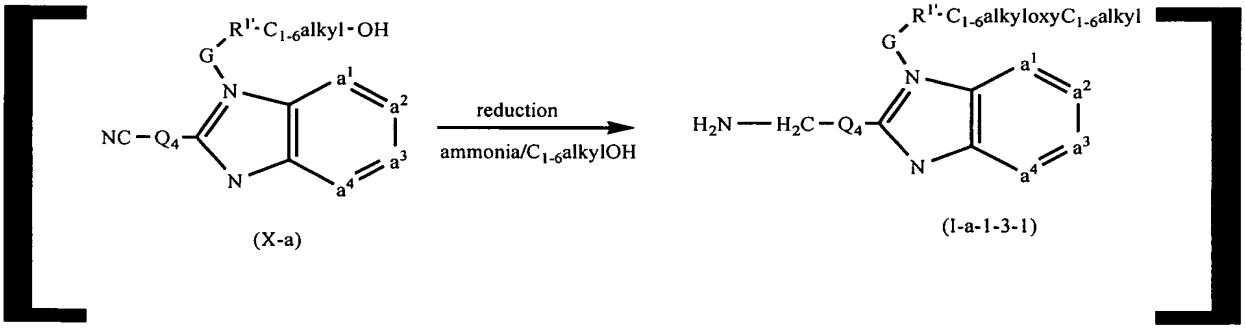
h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)



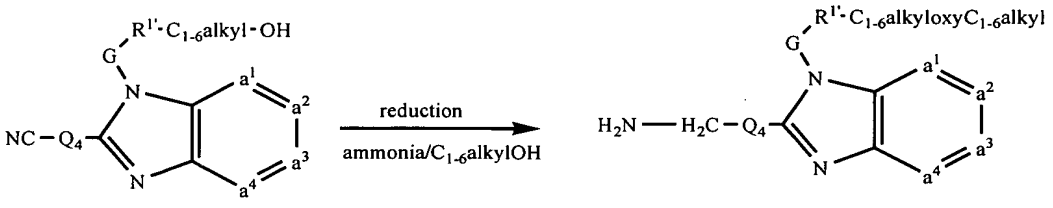
(X) (I-a-1-3)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2\text{-}NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)



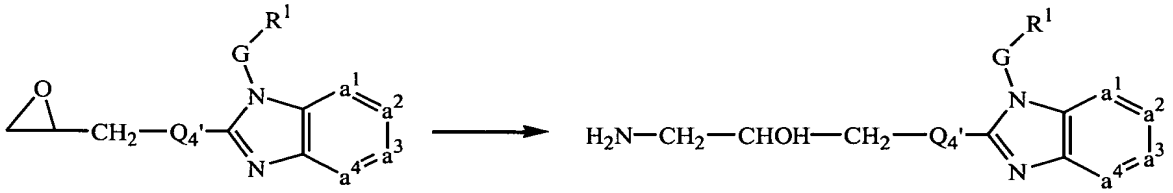
(X-a) (I-a-1-3-1)



(X-a) (I-a-1-3-1)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, $H_2N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q_4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $-CH_2\text{-}NH_2$ moiety, and $R^{1'}$ being defined as R^1 according to claim 1 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent and suitable solvent;

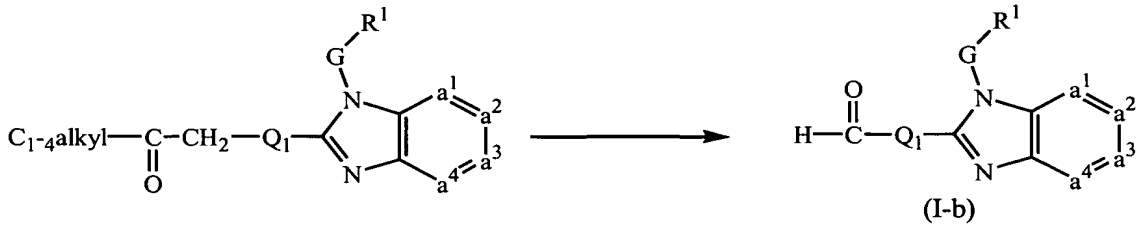
j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)



(XI) (I-a-1-3-2)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $H_2N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CHOH\text{-}CH_2\text{-}Q_4$, being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a $CH_2\text{-}CHOH\text{-}CH_2\text{-}NH_2$ moiety, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

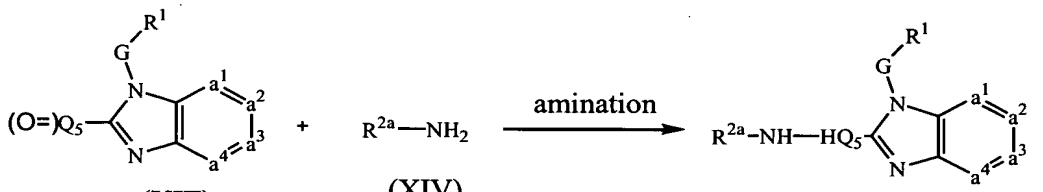
k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



(XII) (I-b)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-C(=O)-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is formyl;

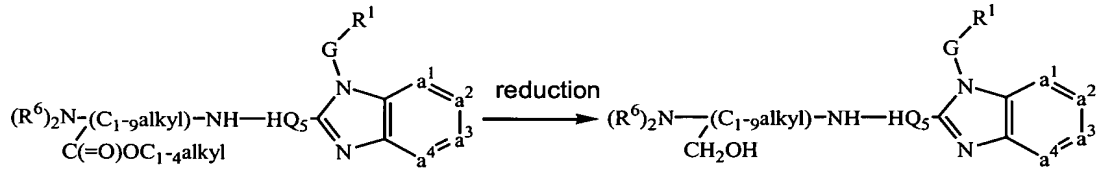
l) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIII) by reaction with an intermediate of formula (XIV)



(XIII) (XIV) (I-c)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and R^{2a}-NH-HQ_5 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 is other than hydrogen and is represented by R^{2a}, R^4 is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R^2 and R^4 substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

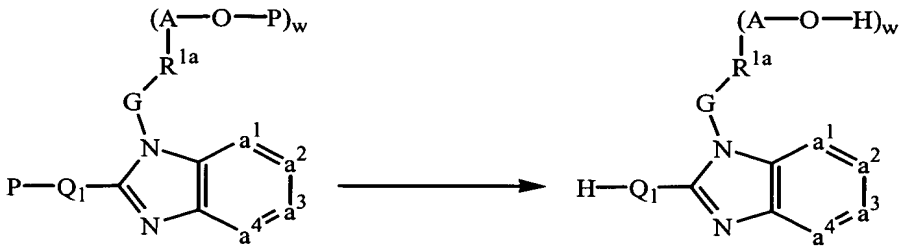
m) reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)



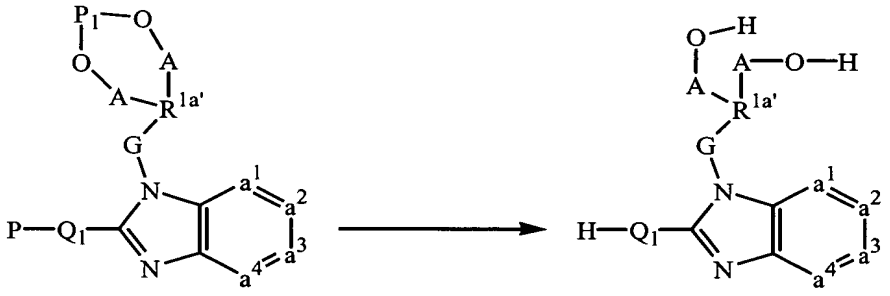
(XV) (I-c-1)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $(R^6)_2N$-[$(C_{1-9}$alkyl)CH_2OH]-NH-HQ_5 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 is other than hydrogen and is represented by C_{1-10}alkyl substituted with $N(R_6)_2$ and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that R^4 is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R^2 and R^4 substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a suitable reducing agent;

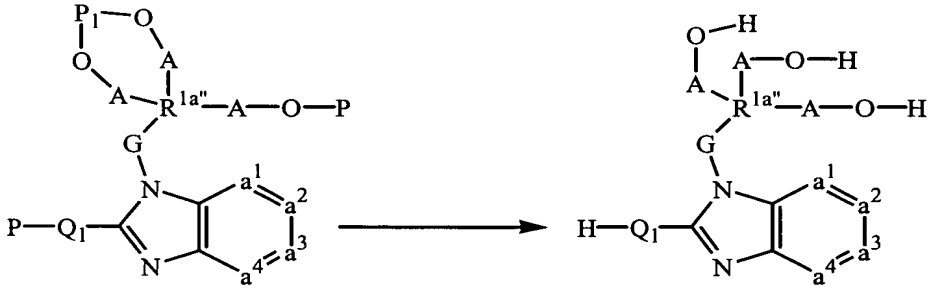
n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)



(XVI) (I-d)



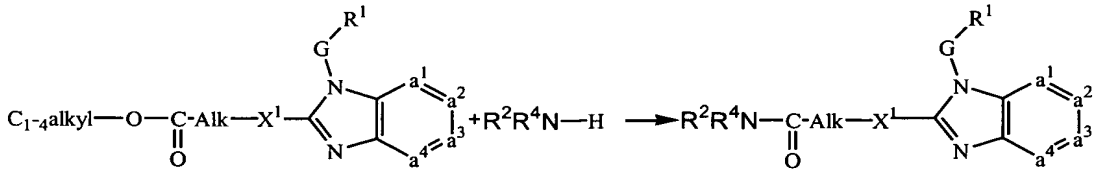
(XVI-a) (I-d-1)



(XVI-b) (I-d-2)

with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and R^{1a}-(A-O-H)$_w$, $R^{1a'}$-(A-O-H)$_2$ and $R^{1a''}$-(A-O-H)$_3$ being defined as R^1 according to claim 1 provided that R^1 is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxyC_{1-6}alkyl, or HO(-CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or P_1 being a suitable protecting group, with a suitable acid;

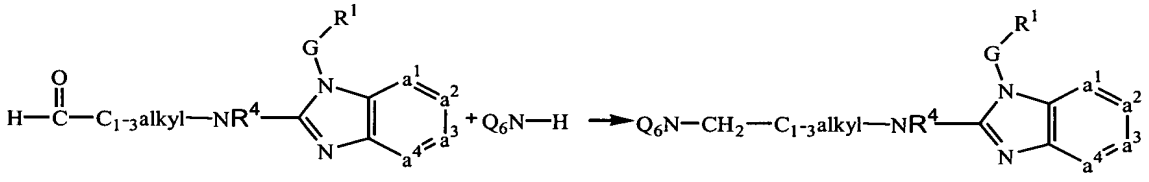
o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



(XVII) (XVIII) (I-e)

with R^1, G, $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$, Alk, X^1 R^2 and R^4 defined as in claim 1, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

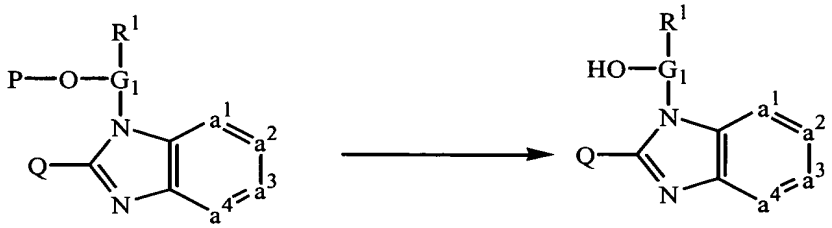
p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)



(XIX) (XX) (I-p)

with R^1, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $Q_6N\text{-}CH_2\text{-}C_{1\text{-}3}alkyl\text{-}NR^4$ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that in the definition of Q, X^2 is $C_{2\text{-}4}alkyl\text{-}NR^4$, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

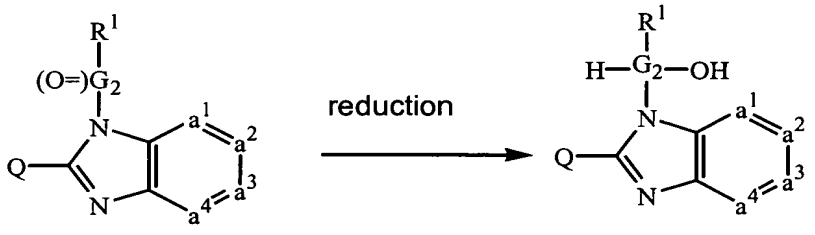
q) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XXI)



(XXI) (I-q)

with R^1, Q, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and $HO\text{-}G_1$ being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy or $HO\text{-}(CH_2CH_2O\text{-})_n$; and

r) reducing an intermediate of formula (XXII)



(XXII) (I-q-1)

with R^1, Q, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-G_2-OH being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy substituent carries also at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent.

14. ***(cancelled)***

15. ***(cancelled)***

16. ***(previously presented)*** The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid.

17. ***(previously presented)*** The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with alkali.

18. ***(previously presented)*** The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the acid addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free base by treatment with alkali.

19. ***(previously presented)*** The process of claim 13, further comprising the step of converting the base addition salt form of compound of formula (I'), stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or *N*-oxide forms thereof, into the free acid by treatment with acid.